

FORM E – BURIAL GROUND

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
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61 48

Town: Tewksbury

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Tewksbury Center

Photograph



Address or Location: East Street , corner of Preservation Lane

Name: The Old Center Burying Grounds

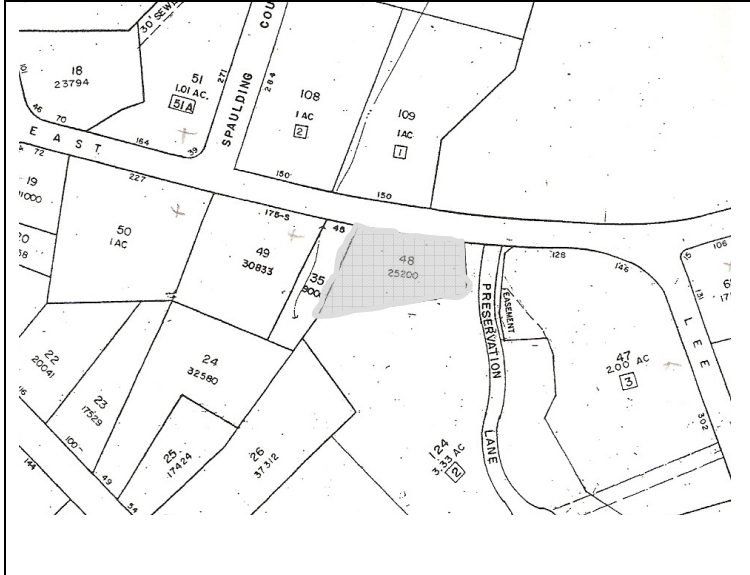
Ownership: _____ *Public* X *Private*

Approximate Number of Stones: 40

Earliest Death Date: 1744**Latest Death Date:** 1829**Landscape Architect:**

Condition: Fair

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Acreage: 0.58 acres

Setting: Located on the south side of East Street between Lee and North Streets. The cemetery is slightly elevated above the street. The area is predominately residential with some commercial uses on North and Lee Streets. A larger cemetery is located on the north side of the East Street, north east of this cemetery.

Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects.com

Date (*month / year*): March 2010

INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

EAST STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Describe landscape features, gravestone materials, designs, motifs, and symbols that are either common or unusual. Note any known carvers.

Bounded by a low granite field stone wall, the old burial ground is located near the edge of East Street. The granite wall is comprised of dry laid field stone with a hewn granite cap. Entrance to the cemetery is through an iron gate. The gate is set between two vertical granite posts near the east end of the front (north) wall. The gate has an arched horizontal bar at the top of the gate. Round vertical bars with finials protrude through the arched bar and are connected by a simple horizontal bar at the bottom. The elevated cemetery has a slight incline upward from the stone wall. There are several accidental trees in the middle of the burial grounds. The cemetery is surrounded by mature deciduous and evergreen trees.

The individual markers are slate and arranged with little organization within the bounds of the cemetery. Some markers of related family members from the late 18th century are grouped in short rows. Primarily portal shaped, the granite markers possess carved images of winged skulls and cherubs, urns, and weeping willows within the half round tops of the markers. The inscriptions are generally flanked by carved columns.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.

Overseen by the Tewksbury Cemetery Commission the cemetery is one of the Town's oldest burying grounds and the oldest community burial ground in the town. It contains the remains of some of the town's earliest families including members of the Hardy family, Kittredge family, and the children of Rev. Sampson Spaulding, the first minister of the Tewksbury Congregational Church.

The cemetery reflects the shift from Puritan burial and theological tradition to those that emerged in New England in the mid-1800s. A common community burial ground, the Old Center Burying Ground features early 18th century slate markers carved with images of winged skulls; bear inscriptions that begin "*Here lies the body of...*"; and are orientated toward the west and the setting sun. Later burials reflect a more hopeful attitude toward death. Markers are orientated *laid out in short orderly rows*, and feature carved images of winged cherubs, urns and weeping willows. Inscriptions typically begin "*Dedicated to the memory of...*" or "*In memory of...*" Municipal records indicate that the enclosure of the cemetery by the field stone wall was added c1859, a typical improvement made to Colonial burying grounds in the 19th century. In 1860 the upright stones on either side of the gate were added to replace an older iron gate. The existing ornamental gate dates from the late 19th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- _____. *Ye Towne Book*. Tewksbury: Town of Tewksbury. 1934.
Old Age Burials at Old Tewksbury Centre Cemetery <http://library.uml.edu/clh/OldO.htm>. Accessed 29 October 2009.
Catalogued by Walter Wilson.
Old Burial Grounds, East Street, Tewksbury, Middlesex County, MA.
<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ma/middlesex/towns/tewksbury/cemeteries/oldburial.txt> transcribed by Lisa Munn-Haynes 2004
Pride, Edward W. *Tewksbury: A Short History*. 1888.
Walker-Kluesing Design Group. "Historical background on Burial Ground and Cemetery Development in Massachusetts".
Preservation Guidelines for Municipally-Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries. Mass.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Department of Environmental Management, 2000.

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First Name	Last Name	Death Date	Age	Inscription	Notes
John Huse	Barton	Oct 14, 1799	5 mo	son of the Rev. Titus Theodore Barton and Mrs. Ruthy, his wife.	
Nancy Webster	Barton	July 16, 1803	3 mo	son of the Rev. Titus Theodore Barton and Mrs. Ruthy, his wife.	
Sarah	Bayley	Apr 22, 1755	46	Here lies buried the body of Mrs. Sarah, ye wife of Mr. Joseph Bayley	
Beulah	Foster	Jun 15, 1776	19	wife of Mr. Amos Foster, Jun.	
Ruth	French	Dec 5, 1807	87	widow	
Thomas	French	Dec 2, 1792	80		
Thomas	French	Apr 24, 1819	81		
Samuel	French	Oct 26, 1778	29 yr, 1 mo, 5 day	son of Mr. Benj. & Mrs. Rebecca French	stone broken, leaning against tree
Beulah	French	Sept 21, 1823	49	wife of Mr. Solomon French	
Polly	French	Oct 23, 1815	47	wife of Mr. Solomon French	
Solomon	French	Oct 16, 1824	56		
Zachariah	Hardy	Oct 15, 1763	78	Here lies buried the body of Zachariah Hardy	stone broken
Hepzibah	Hardy	Mar 31, 1749	54	Here lyes Buried the Body of Mrs. Hepzibah, the wife of Zechariah Hardy	
Nehemiah	Hardy	Sept 18, 1748	27	Here lies buried the body of Mr. Nehemiah Hardy	
Nathaniel	Hardy	Oct 1748	29	Here lyes Buried the Body of Nathaniel Hardy	
John Jr	Hardy	Feb 16, 1764	20	Here lied buried the body of John Hardy, Jun., son of Mr. John & Mrs. Abigail Hardy	
Ruth	Kendal	Feb 14, 1753	28	In Memory Of Mrs. Ruth Kendal, wife of Deac. Ezra Kendal	
Ezra	Kendal	June 6, 1756	8	son of Deac. Ezra Kendal and Mrs. Ruth Kendal	
Jonathan	Kendall	Sept 20, 1813	42	Friends nor physicians cannot save, This mortal body from the grave, Nor can the grave confine it here, When Christ doth call it to appear	
Jonathan	Kendall	Sept 20, 1813	12		Stone lying down, 1/2 buried

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Abigail	Kendall	May 11, 1808	84	In Memory of Mrs. Abigail Kendal, wife of Deac. Ezra Kendal; My children & my friends, Prepare to follow me, This is the house assigned for all, Of high & low degree	
Dea. Ezra	Kendall	May 1, 1817	97	By lone experience I have known, The power of Christ to save, At his command I venture down, Securely to the grave, Now I am buried in the dust, My flesh shall be his care, thee I trust, These withering limbs with, To raise them strong & fair	
Lydia	Kendall	1858	80		
Jobe	Kittredge	Mar 9, 1814	64	Sacred To The Memory Of Mr. Jobe Kittredge	
Eleanor	Kittredge	Sept 23, 1819	57	Sacred To The Memory Of Mrs. Eleanor Kittredge, wife of Mr. Job Kittredge	
Lieut William	Kittredge	Apr 26, 1789	92	He's gone at length, how many grieve; Whom he did generously relieve. But O how shocking he expire, Amidst the flames of raging fire; Yet all who sleep in Christ are blessed, Whatever way they are undressed	
Betsy	Kittredge	Oct 19, 1802	2 yr, 3 mo	dau. of Mr. Job & Mrs. Eleanor Kittredge	
Mary	Kittredge	May 5, 1753	42	Here lyes ye Body of Mrs. Mary Kittredge, wife of Mr. William Kittredge	
Rebeca	Mace	Mar 31, 1829	70	widow of Benjamin Mace	
Jonathan	Mace	Feb 1812	20	children of Mr. Benj. & Mrs. Rebekah Mace	
Joel	Mace	Jan 7, 1816	15	children of Mr. Benj. & Mrs. Rebekah Mace	
Eli	Mace	Feb 2, 1820	29	children of Mr. Benj. & Mrs. Rebekah Mace	
Benjamin	Mace	Nov 30, 1828	82		
Thomas	Marshall	Sept 8, 1778	73		
Mary	Marshall	July 7, 1770	47	2nd wife of Mr. Thomas Marshall	
Phebe	Marshall	Jan 15, 1779	57	3rd wife of Mr. Thomas Marshall, formerly wife of Mr. Francis Phelps of Pepperell	
Jennet	McCoy	Oct 9, 1764		wife to Mr. James McCoy	the rest of the stone is buried

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Susanna	Peacock	Oct 16, 1749	2 yr, 4 mo, 16 day	dau. of Mr. William and Mrs. Betty Peacock	
William	Peacock	Oct 22, 1749	28 yr, 6 mo, 9 day	Here lyes Buried the Body of Mr. William Peacock	
Timothy	Rogers	Apr 25, 1803	15 day	the third son of Mr. David & Mrs. Polly Rogers	
Ruth	Rogers	Dec 15, 1800	72	Relict of Mr. Timothy Rogers	
Joel	Rogers	July 27, 1800	32	son of Mr. Timothy Rogers & Mrs. Ruth, his wife	
Dea. Jacob	Shed	Feb 26, 1810	84	The memory of the just if blessed	
Rebekah	Shed	Jan 18, 1803	77	wife of Deac. Jacob Shed; A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband"	
Hannah	Spaulding	Jan 18, 1744	7 wk, 2 day	dau. of ye Rev. Sampson & Mrs. Mehetabel Spaulding	
Mehetabel	Spaulding	Dec 3, 1744	2 yr, 6 mo	Here lyes ye Body of Mehetabel Spaulding, dau. of ye Rev. Mr. Sampson & Mrs. Mehetabel Spaulding	
John	Spaulding	May 20, 1755	4 yr, 5 mo, 3 day	Here lyes ye Body of John Spaulding, son of ye Rev. Mr. Sampson & Mrs. Mehetabel Spaulding	

